

29

*K*

8223.2

# The CASE of the Poor PEOPLE Employed in Weaving Gause for Hoods, Scarfs, Neck-Handkerchiefs, and in Weaving Silk-Handkerchiefs.

Besides the many Difficulties and Objections already made, and laid open by the whole Trade in general, against the intended Duty to be laid on their Goods, there are also these following ones, on this Branch of the said Trade, *viz.*

These Gauses are often cut out of the Loom in all manner of Lengths, from a Quarter of a Yard to Twelve Yards, as Customers have occasion for them.

There are Handkerchiefs made for the Neck of several Prices, in the same Loom, with the same Warp, *viz.* from Two Shillings and Six Pence to Thirty Shillings, and upwards; and each Handkerchief is always cut in half by the Shopkeepers for Sale; so that there will be two Seals required to each Handkerchief.

When these sorts of Goods come to be out of Fashion, a great part thereof must be sold for less than half their Value, and some not sold at all.

Upon a modest Computation, there is about Fifteen Hundred Looms employed upon these Commodities, and each Loom employs (one with the other) Four People; by which Computation these Trades employ Six Thousand People, who must be subject to insupportable Difficulties, if the projected Method of Sealing and Marking such Goods in the Loom goes on.

A Workman makes from One to Twelve Handkerchiefs in a Day; every one must be mark'd, or the Fraud will be endless: Every Two Looms must have an Officer constantly to attend them, which Article will employ Seven Hundred and Fifty Officers.

The whole Duty upon these Goods will not pay the Sallaries, which must be allow'd the Officers; so that the Crown will not only be wholly disappointed of Money, but such Vexation and Trouble (as well as Charge) will attend this method, as cannot be apprehended: For all Tradesmen, that deal in these Commodities, must become Servants, and be subject to the Officers, or be undone; it being impossible to keep a Seal long upon these single Goods.

*If the intended Duty upon these Goods goes on, this Branch of the said Trade will be utterly Ruin'd, and foreign Goods encouraged: Which Evil, it is humbly hoped, a British Parliament in their great Wisdom will prevent.*

T H E

C A S E

O F T H E

Gause and Handkerchief  
Weavers.



48

10 11

446.